

Date: 3/11/2003 5:05 PM

Sender:

To:

(b)(6)(b)(7)(C)

cc:

Priority: Normal

Subject: Environmental Update #17

All--

Here are the environmental issues discussed during the PDT meeting Tuesday, March 11, 2003.

1. The Tucson/Yuma PEIS comment resolution log is being prepared and should be submitted by the end of this week. A schedule for delivery of the PFPEIS will be developed after this matrix is completed.
2. No word on the draft Yuma BO yet. GSRC is still waiting for information regarding species locations from the USFWS. The USFWS has also requested that additional species be added to the evaluation. These are in addition to the species that the USFWS recommended to be included. The AERC and USBP will need to decide how we will need to approach these issues, since the addition will delay the BA/BO and require a modification.
3. The pre-final Naco fence and roadway EA was submitted for internal review on 4 March. The PDT established a deadline for comments of 12 March. (b)(6) (b)(6) will have troops on the ground by 6 April and needs to have this document completed. (b)(6) agreed to push the FONSI through.
4. The pre-final Ephraim Ridge reclamation EA was sent out 5 March for internal review. The PDT established a deadline of 14 March for comments.
5. The pre-draft Nogales Infrastructure EA (roadways and portable lights) was submitted on 26 February for internal review. The PDT established a deadline of 14 March for comments. (b)(6) indicated that (b)(6) wanted to avoid the perception of possible segmentation and has requested that this EA be combined with the Nogales RVS. There might be a contractual problem with combining the two since there are different appropriations. (b)(6) will coordinate with (b)(6)
6. The WWD 404(b)(1) evaluation, brief EA and public notice was submitted to HDR for review. GSRC contacted (b)(6) (USACE Regulatory Functions Branch) regarding the status, but (b)(6) was out of the office this week.
7. The final CR survey reports for Naco and Douglas have been submitted to (b)(6) for coordination with the SHPO. The coordination on the Programmatic MOA can be re-established upon acceptance of this report.
8. (b)(6) stated that road maintenance at Sonoita can be CATEXed provided

that the work stays within the original footprint and no new structures or designs are implemented. He suggested that biological and cultural resources

surveys be completed prior to the maintenance activities. HDR has developed

a SOW to proceed with these CR and bio surveys.

9. The pre-draft Naco and Douglas Station Supplemental Cumulative Effects EA

will be sent out tomorrow (12 March) as scheduled for internal review. The PDT established a deadline for comments of 25 March. The prepared and will be submitted NLT March 12.

10. Field surveys are scheduled next week for the following EAs:
Operation

Desert Grip II, 44 Emergency Beacons, Four Checkpoints (Ajo and Casa Grande Stations). A pre-draft of the Op Desert Grip is scheduled for early April.

11. The Nogales Station EBS/EA is underway. GSRC is conducting field visits this week.

12. During a sidebar conversation, (b)(6)(b)(7)(C) identified

the new RVS sites that are proposed for Nogales. No new access roads or improvements to roads will be required. A modification request has been submitted to HQBOR through the AERC for the additional work needed for the Nogales RVS.

As usual, please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.
Thanks.

(b)(6)(b)(7)(C)